***Black Panther***

**Discussion Questions**

1. At the center of the film *Black Panther* is the fictional element vibranium. Due to vibranium being used for technology within the fictional state of Wakanda, the decision is to hide its resources and success within plain sight in the region of East Africa. For what political and economic geographic reasons would the decision be made for Wakanda to hide in plain sight?

2. What evidence is seen throughout the film of fears of Africa being exploited for its resources? (Fun fact: although not stated in this film, Captain America’s shield is made of vibranium)

3. A major theme of *Black Panther* is the dream of development in the African continent. How is this dream presented in the way that Wakanda is presented?

4. Gender roles is another major theme of *Black Panther*. Who are the Dora Milaje (you will probably need to look this up to make the connection)? Describe the unique role played by the Dora Milaje in the film and how this contrasts with other popular and historic images of guards and protectors typically seen. Does this line up with what we know regarding gender roles in Africa?

5. How are the themes of imperialism and decolonization addressed in *Black Panther*? How does the character of Erik Killmonger speak to this theme? How does Shuri speak to this theme? How are relations between the West and Wakanda depicted (this about the character of Agent Ross)? Why is this significant?

6. How is the complicated issue of ethnicity in Africa addressed in *Black Panther*? How does Wakanda represent the idea of a multiethnic state? What is Wakanda’s dilemma politically and economically?

7. What is the role of the Jabari in the film? How do they represent a conflict between tradition vs. modernity? What conflict is represented in the relationship between T’Challa and W’Kabi?

8. “Hardships that radicalized” Erik Killmonger and his father in the United States are mentioned in the film, especially in relation to their time in Oakland, CA in the 1990s. What hardships? How do these hardships relate to geographic issues addressed in class regarding urban problems and ethnicity in the US?

9. What is Erik Killmonger’s position on what Wakanda’s geopolitical role should be in the world? How does this contrast with T’Challa’s geopolitical vision for Wakanda? How is it similar?

10. How does T’Challa’s view of Wakanda’s geopolitical position change over time? How does this begin to be evidenced in the film’s final scene?

11. How does *Black Panther* seek to counter negative images of Africa and instead serve as a celebration of “Africaness?” Give examples from the film?

12. Consider the first post-credits scene at the end of *Black Panther*. What is the broader message of T’Challa’s speech to the United Nations General Assembly? How does his speech relate to the broader issue of globalization, and where does the director seem to stand on the topic?